

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1 and 3-13 are all the claims currently pending in the Application, all of which currently stand rejected. Specifically, claims 1, 3-6 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,592,485 to Consiglieri in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0003781 to Kikkawa. Claims 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Consiglieri in view of Kikkawa, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,845 to Oniishi. No other grounds of rejection or objection have been set forth.

Per the present Amendment, the recitations of claim 13 have been amended into independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering its rejections moot. Additionally, claim 4 has been amended to independent form.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Consiglieri in view of Kikkawa. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

Claim 4

As indicated above, Applicant has amended claim 4 to independent form. Therefore, Applicant shall address the patentability of claim 4 first. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the cited art for *at least* the following reasons.

For example, claim 4 recites, “a sensor ... wherein the drive control unit for driving the second load electrical parts converts a sensor signal outputted from the sensor into the control signal.” Yet, in rejecting claim 4, the Examiner never alleges that the cited art discloses a sensor, much less “convert[ing] a sensor signal outputted from the sensor into the control signal.” Instead, the Examiner simply alleges that “Consiglieri discloses a dual system (left and right side of the car) comprising a plurality of auxiliary units (slave units 27) configured to be driven and coupled as claimed.” As the Examiner does not allege that Consiglieri discloses a sensor, and Consiglieri fails to disclose a sensor, Applicant respectfully submits that Consiglieri clearly fails

to disclose or render obvious the recitations of claim 4. Applicant further submits that Kikkawa fails to remedy these deficiencies in Consiglieri, and therefore, claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the cited art for *at least* these reasons. Applicant further submits that claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the cited art for reasons analogous to those presented below with regards to claim 1.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

electronic connectors, each electronic connector being fitted by direct connection to one kind of the load electrical parts;

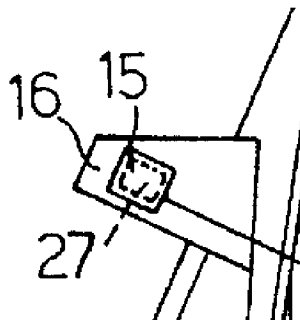
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wherein the one kind of the load electrical parts is mounted to the electronic connectors, and

wherein the direct connection comprises coupling a socket of the electronic connector with pins of the at least one of the load electrical part.

Applicant respectfully submits that Consiglieri fails to teach or render obvious the above-recited features of claim 1.

For example, Applicant respectfully submits that the Consiglieri reference makes no disclosure of electronic connectors as claimed. In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner relies on the figures of Consiglieri, alleging that “the drive control units (slave units 27), as illustrated, are in the same assembly as the load electrical part (e.g. external mirror motor and slave unit 27), and thus serve as an electrical connector on which the load electrical part is mounted.” The portion of Fig. 1 of Consiglieri relied upon by the Examiner has been reproduced below. Specifically, reference number 27 indicates the slave unit, and reference numeral 15 is “a device for the electrical control of an outside rear-view mirror.” (Consiglieri, col. 2, lines 43-44).



First, it is Applicant's position that Consiglieri does not disclose, "one kind of the load electrical parts is mounted to the electronic connectors." For example, Fig. 1 of Consiglieri is "a diagrammatical view" of the Consiglieri system, and does not provide a detailed view of the structure of the devices disclosed therein. Furthermore, the text of the reference states that the slave units 27 "belong" or are "associated with" devices such as the device for electrical control of the mirror 15 without ever saying how this association is made. Accordingly, since the figures of Consiglieri are "diagrammatical" and the text of the reference does not teach that, "the load electrical parts [are] mounted to the electronic connectors," Applicant respectfully submits that Consiglieri fails to teach the connectors as recited claim 1.

Furthermore, even if the Examiner's interpretation of Consiglieri is assumed *arguendo*, Applicant respectfully submits that Consiglieri would still fail to disclose that "the direct connection comprises coupling a socket of the electronic connector with pins of the at least one of the load electrical part." For example, the Examiner's interpretation of Consiglieri is "that many of the drive control units (slave units 27), as illustrated, are in the same assembly as the load electrical part" Under the Examiner's interpretation, the recited components are contained in the same assembly, and therefore, there would be no need for the recited socket.

Applicant further submits that Kikkawa fails to remedy the above described deficiencies in Consiglieri, and therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

Applicant further submits that claims 3 and 5, 6, 11 and 13 patentably distinguish over the cited art due *at least* to their dependencies on claim 1, as well as their additionally recited features. Finally, Applicant respectfully submits that Oniishi fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies in Consiglieri and Kikkawa, and therefore, claims 7-10 patentably distinguish over the cited art due *at least* to their respective dependencies on claims 1 and 4, as well as their additionally recited features.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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